4. to suggest additioal measures for rehabilitatin, the sick deep sea fishing units wit1 a view to maximising returns on further investment.

5. to sugest measures for effecting modification; to a part of the existing fleet fo1 diversified fishing and to consider the recommendations of the FAC Consultant in this regard; and

6. to review, and make suggestions regarding, he existing policy on deep sea fishing, with a view to making investment in this sector more attractive.

The Committee may invite any officers|experts|industry representatives as special invitees The Committee may undertake field visits, if necessary.

Statement—II

Terms of Reference of the Empowered Committee on Secretaries on deep Sea Fishing.

Functions

(A) All matters relating to deep sea fishing inclusive of matters relating to development of deep sea fishing industry;

(B) All aspects relating to the total number of vessels to be operated in the Indian EEZ, size and nature of vessels to be permitted, level of exploitation of resources, restriction of fishing areas and communications links etc;

(C) All aspects relating to development of infrastructural facilities for growth of deep sea fishing in India;

(D) All functions presently being exercised by the fishing vessel acquisition licensing Committee;

(E) Clearance of 100 per cent Export Oriented Unit proposals relating to deep sea fishing;

(F) Clearance of foreign collaborations and joint venture proposals on deep sea fishing;

(G) Clearance of charter|test fishing|lease|applications on deep sea fishing;

(H) All aspects relating to availability of adequate finance for development of deep sea fishing;

(I) All aspects relating to development of man-powers including engagement of foreign crew for Deep Sea Fishing vessels.

2. In connection with the above mentioned functions the Committee is empowered to accord single window clearance to all proposals on Deep Sea Fishing without further reference to any other agency.

Deep Sea Fishing

1739. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been done by Government as to how many entrepreneurs who originally purchased deep-sea fishing vessels through loans and finance from Government institutions in the deep-sea sector would like to retrieve their seized vessels and run them;

(b) if so, the details therof;

(c) whether there is any special cell in his Ministry to deal with the deep sea fishing units which are sick;

(d) if not, what is the mechanism available for entrepreneurs to approach and obtain speedy and positive action;

(e) whether there is any understanding between his Ministry and SCICI in this regard; and

(f) whether it is a fact that SCICI has suggested to his Ministry to abandon the deep-sea fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, there is a separate section in the Ministry to deal with matters relating to SCICI as the agency for financing & rehabilitating the deep sea fishing units.

(d) As soon as a representation is received from an entrepreneur about problems being faced by a unit, decision regarding the same is taken expeditiously in the Ministry and in consultation with SCICI/Ministry of Finance, wherever necesary.

(e) Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited has been functioning as the agency of the Government of India for financing & rehabilitating the deep sea fishing units assisted by the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee.

(f) No, Sir.

Discard of Shrimp by-catch by East Coast Trawlers

1740. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a FAO study has estimated that the shrimp by-catch discarded by East Coast Trawlers into the Bay of Bengal every year totals nearly 1,20;000 tons;

(b) whether Government have made any plans to utilise this by-catch;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transport such by-catch to urban centres in inland areas; and

(d) whether purchase of this by-catch to asisst the sick units is being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Utilisation of by-catch from shrimp trawlers requires study on commercial viability of undertaking such a project. At present their are no plans to take up a project in order to utilise and transport such by-catch to urban areas.

(d) Yes, Sir.

National Policy on Food Processing

1741. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national policy on Food Processing has not yet been finalised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether discussions with all concerned have finished;

(d) by when the policy is likely to be announced; and

(e) what is the likely emphasis of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (e) Action has been initiated for formulating a policy on Food Processing. The policy will address issues relating to accelerated growth and development of Food Processing Industries with a view to augment employment opportunities and incomes, both in rural and urban